

# COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

April 1, 2014

6:00 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight/Chairperson, Elderrean Paules, Marie Hurley, Phil Cacciola, August DeFrance, Joseph Carta (via phone)

**Absent:** Richard Pelletier, Steven Shapiro, Keith Vinci, Abigail Nolan – Youth in Government

**Staff Present:** Debbie Stanley, Acting Director Recreation & Community Services, Karen Nocera, Recreation & Community Services

**General Public:** None

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:02pm.

**3. Public Hearing:** none

**4. Approval of Minutes:** *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Mar.4, 2014, was made by Phil Cacciola and seconded by Elderrean Paules. The motion was passed.*

## Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance was not able to attend the last Building Committee Meeting. Debbie Stanley reported that everything seems to be on schedule and that the Building Committee discussed furniture. Chair Ron Klattenberg is leaving the Building Committee and Joe Samolis will be the new Chair. The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2014. A discussion ensued.
- Marie Hurley discussed the New Pump Station. This will be located on DeKoven Drive. The design is about 70 percent completed. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules stated that the Middletown Lions Club will be celebrating 85 years with a Comedy Night on May 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at Crystal Lake at the Polish Falcon's Club. She has tickets available. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera explained that the Recreation/Community Services Department sent 32 inclusion participants and residents from Monarca Place by bus to see Keith Vinci's "The Cridders" show. Everyone loved the show. The Lady Katharine Cruise will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> and is already half full. There is a bus trip to New York City on your own. This will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 5 unified theatre participants were chosen to perform at the Governor's Mansion on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that the sidewalk cafes are starting to come out on Main Street. Phil asked Debbie Stanley to send a reminder letter to Public Works/Ricky Romano to make sure that the sidewalks have a 48" cleared walkway for outdoor seating. David Godwin is the new person in charge of "traffic division" for the police department. The audible walk signals and beeping buttons are great for those that are visually impaired. The beeping buttons are great so that those visually impaired can find the push button. We are still working on the North End audible signals. There was money available for audible signals for Liberty Street and Rapallo Avenue. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight mentioned that Steve Shapiro's term ends April 30, 2014. The hope is that since Steve only has attended one meeting this year that the seat will be filled with someone that will attend the meetings. A discussion ensued.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business:**

## **Miscellaneous:**

- Ellie mentioned that it has been incredibly cold in certain common areas of Monarca Place. The hallways and the social room are especially cold. Ellie asked that the temperature be raised in the common areas but there is a lock on the thermostat. Phil mentioned that he will discuss this issue with Bill Judd. A discussion ensued.
- The letter that was composed by Keith Vinci regarding River's Edge entrance door was given to Marty for a signature.
- Debbie Stanley discussed that the Senior Center is working on obtaining a grant for a new bus. This will help with transportation for seniors to the new Senior Center. The new Senior Center is scheduled to open in October 2014. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that there is a young man that is in the Army that was born in Durham, Connecticut. His name is Joseph Kapaczewski and is a nephew of Tammy from the Water Department. He just wrote a book called "Back in the Fight". He is the first amputee to be sent back to Afghanistan. It is an amazing book. A discussion ensued.

**Adjournment:** *A motion of adjournment was made by Phil Cacciola and was seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte